

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN NEW YORK CITY
JULY 27, 1920.

A Committee meeting was held in New York City at the Office of McKim, Mead and White, 101 Park Avenue, Tuesday, July 27, 1920. There were present:

Mr. Moore;
Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall;
Mr. Greenleaf;
Mr. Fraser;

also Major C. S. Ridley, Secretary and Executive Officer, and Mr. Henry Bacon and Colonel Robert E. Wyllie, General Staff, War Department.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. VERDUN MEMORIAL: Under date of July 12, 1920, the Commission received the following letter from Colonel Wyllie:

"In the last Army Appropriation Act approved June 5, 1920 appears the following Section:

'That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized, in the name of the Congress and people of the United States, to present to the city of Verdun, France, a suitable memorial medal or tablet as a mark of America's appreciation of the valor of its defenders, the cost to be paid from the appropriation for contingencies of the Army.'

The Secretary of War would very much appreciate any help which the Commission of Fine Arts can render in the design of this memorial for Verdun and in this same connection desires me to inform you that it is his intention to ask for Congressional action to present similar memorials to some of the French cities, notably Chateau Thierry and St. Mihiel."

Colonel Wyllie reported that it was the desire of the War Department that this memorial be something very fine, and that while it is customary in foreign countries to present cities with appropriate memorials the Secretary of War has since decided that this shall be done only in the case of Verdun, and that any

other cities to be honored in this way shall receive one of the existing Medals.

The Committee gave the matter careful consideration and decided to arrange for a program of competition, in which it is desired to have the following eight sculptors as competitors:

Paulanship;	Robert Aitken;
Chester Beach;	John Flanagan;
Sherry Fry;	Henry Hering;
Anthony de Francisci;	Anna V. Hyatt.

Each of these sculptors would be expected to submit a plastilina model, twelve inches in diameter according to a suggested design and to deliver it at the studio of Mr. Fraser by October 1, 1920. It was decided that the medal shall be of gold, cast, four inches in diameter. The size is the same as shown in "Italian Medals" by Cornelius Von Fabriccy (Mrs. Gustavus W. Hamilton's translation, London, Duckworth & Co., 1904). The inscription is to be a part of the design, brief, and made up so as to express the idea in the Act of Congress above quoted. Also, one side of the medal shall have the quotation *I l s n e p a s s e r o n t p a s*. (They shall not pass). Mr. Fraser advised against making the inscription too long, limiting it possibly to ten or fifteen words, since he said long inscriptions are more suitable for tablets, while they detract from the beauty of a medal. It was thought the following would be appropriate to serve as a guide for the sculptors:

"By the Congress and the people of the United States
to the City of Verdun as a mark of America's appreciation
of the valor of its defenders in the World War."

The Committee recommended that the design be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for approval, Mr. Daniel C. French and Mr. Herbert Adams, former sculptor members of the Commission, to be associated with the Commission in reaching a decision.

The Committee recommended that no mention of this competition shall be made in the press, excepting by authority of the Secretary of War.

2. **REGIMENTAL COLORS:** Under date of July 15, 1920, the Commission received a letter from Colonel Wyllie asking for the cooperation of the Commission of Fine Arts in the matter of securing a suitable design of regimental colors. (Exhibit A). Colonel Wyllie also submitted a photostat copy of a drawing of the regimental colors of the Ninth Infantry, under the new regulations, made by Miss F. F. Sherwood, of the Office of the Quartermaster General. A copy of Colonel Wyllie's letter had been sent to each member of the Commission for recommendations in the matter, but upon Colonel Wyllie's submitting and explaining the design Mr. Fraser inspected the same carefully and thought that with a few minor changes it would be very acceptable. Mr. Fraser particularly recommended that the eagle be improved and suggested that the artist use a copy of the photograph of an eagle in the Office of the Supervising Architect as a guide.

3. **INSIGNIA FOR THE MILITIA:** Under date of July 12, 1920, the Commission received the following letter from Colonel Wyllie:

"The Secretary of War desires to have an insignia for the Militia Bureau, War Department, which under the Army Reorganization Act is now a separate and distinct branch of the Army, and any help which you can render in the design of this insignia will be much appreciated. I should like very much to talk to the Commission or member thereof for the exchange of ideas."

Colonel Wyllie reported that the Militia is a Bureau of the War Department which, under the new law, will be headed by a National Guard officer not by a regular, though it will have regulars and National Guard officers in it, and it is the Bureau which controls the National Guard under the Secretary of War.

As to a design Colonel Wyllie recommended crossed fasces with an eagle in the upper angle; the symbolism being, the citizen-soldiers to be represented by the fasces, which denote the unity of the States; and the eagle to repre-

sent the Federal Government. Mr. Fraser thought an insignia for the Militia of such design would be good. Colonel Wyllie said it is desired to use these insignia particularly for collar ornaments, and that he would take up the matter with the Quartermaster General to ascertain whether there is any fund available for the making of a design. The design would be made subject to the approval of Mr. Fraser.

4. COLLAR ORNAMENTS, UNITED STATES ARMY: Colonel Wyllie reported that about a year ago the Quartermaster General submitted cartons of insignia for officers and privates which it was thought could be improved upon recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts, but that at the time it was thought probable a new scheme of insignia would be adopted. However, Colonel Wyllie said, the War Department has disapproved the proposed plan for a new scheme of insignia, and therefore desired that the Commission give the matter further attention by recommending changes which should be made in the existing insignia for officers and privates. Colonel Wyllie suggested that the proposed plan to have a model made for the Militia insignia could be made the basis for changing of existing insignia of the officers and enlisted men. Mr. Fraser approved this suggestion.

5. MINIATURE VICTORY MEDAL: About two months ago Mr. Moore received from the Numismatic Society in New York City a copy of a miniature English Victory Medal, which he brought to the attention of the Quartermaster General, who was highly pleased with it, and under date of June 30, 1920, advised Mr. Moore as follows:

"There is being returned herewith the miniature English Medal which you so kindly loaned me.

I am having dies made at the Mint for our Medal in miniature and will send you a copy as soon as the first impressions are received."

Colonel Wyllie advised that he has just received a sample of the miniature Victory Medal for approval though he did not bring it with him to New York. Colonel Wyllie said this miniature Victory Medal if approved would be placed on the market so that those of the World War who are entitled to a medal could purchase it.

This is to be worn on evening clothes.

6. JEANNE D'ARC MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore reported having received a communication from Madame Polifeme that the replica of the statue Jeanne D'Arc to be erected in Washington is now complete in Paris, and that it is desired that the Commission determine upon a site. The Committee inspected a map of the District of Columbia and recommended as particularly suitable sites for the statue, Columbia Road and Sixteenth Street, opposite the north side of Meridian Hill Park, and a site on Seventeenth Street in front of the Red Cross Building. The Committee thought it desirable to have a final decision made after an inspection of the sites.

7. ERICSSON MEMORIAL: Under date of July 12 Major Ridley addressed a letter to Mr. Bacon asking him for a report as to the appropriateness of the design for the location set apart for the Ericsson Memorial. Mr. Bacon, who was present at the meeting, reported that the model of the Ericsson Memorial meets with his approval and that he had addressed a letter to the Commission accordingly.

8. RESIDENCE NEAR THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL: Major Ridley reported that he has been advised that a residence is to be erected at Twenty-second and Water Streets near the Lincoln Memorial, and that Bradley Delehanty is the architect. The residence is to be of Spanish type with fine gardens, and it is said will cost about one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. The name of the owner had not been ascertained. Major Ridley advised that the Zoning Commission had set aside the area in that locality on the north side of B Street for residences. The Committee recommended looking into the matter so that any possible interference with the Commission's plan for the development of the city may be avoided.

9. INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION MEMORIAL TABLET: Under date of July 15, 1920, the Commission received a letter (Exhibit B) from Alfred Cookman Cass, architect, of Lansdowne, Pa., with which he transmitted a drawing of the proposed

memorial tablet for the Interstate Commerce Commission. The design was approved subject to a few minor changes. Mr. Kendall suggested that the marble rosettes which are to be over metal wall fasteners be eliminated, and also the wave motif with moulding at the bottom of the tablet. Mr. Kendall thought the painting in the letters would not be necessary.

10. LINCOLN MEMORIAL PLANTING PLAN: (a) The sixteen scale plan as designed by Mr. Payne was presented by Major Ridley and embodied an additional detailed planting, of large material mainly boxbush, dwarf box and English and Japanese yews, to the plan of similar scale dated October 1, 1919, as approved by the Commission on October 17, 1919. The additional detailed planting plan was approved by the Committee with the understanding that it was to be used mainly as a guide to the placement of the larger mass relations of the proposed planting scheme and that the proposed flexible arrangement of heights, species and varieties of plant material used might be varied commensurate with the requirement of good taste in the use of texture and color of material as an aid to successful planting. It was recommended by the Committee that in order to secure the best result as regards strength of mass planting immediately adjacent to the cheek blocks (each surmounted by a tripod) that the two existing English yews be moved to a less prominent position where these plants of thinner habit would be more suitable and replace them with boxbush twelve to fifteen feet in height to secure the desired effect of strength and solidity by the use of heavier leaved material.

(b) Planting elevation: An elevation of eight scale was also presented showing the proposed planting in elevation based on the additional planting plan above mentioned. This showed an easy formal planting of pleasing rounded outlines designed to soften the heavy horizontal lines of the thirteen foot retaining wall and to relate the structure to the grounds. The planting masses were in strong

bold units and arranged also to secure a pleasing variety of texture and depth of color. This elevation was approved.

11. FREER ART GALLERY, FIFTEEN FOOT WALK DETAIL: A sixteen scale plan of the fifteen foot walk giving access to the north side of the Freer Gallery, was presented. This was approved by the Committee.

12. RESERVATION 312-A: (a) Planting Plan: A ten scale planting plan of this reservation was presented. A valuable criticism was suggested by Mr. Greenleaf regarding the use of heavier mass planting to the south end of the plan. This suggestion was embodied in the plan and the plan was therefore approved.

(b) Construction plan: A ten scale construction plan was presented. Mr. Greenleaf recommended that in the placement of the individual stones of the proposed eight foot flagstone walk, that these be placed flush with the ground and also to allow the joints to be of sufficient width to permit of suitable grass joints. This was embodied in the plan and was therefore approved.

The Committee adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. M. Greenleaf", is written over the "Approved:" text.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
Washington

July 15, 1920.

THE SECRETARY, COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS.

Subject: Design of Regimental Colors.

1. Within the last few months the Chief of Staff has approved some changes in the design of our regimental colors, and in order that our new colors can possess the greatest possible artistic merit he would much appreciate any assistance that the Commission can render in designing the details.

2. I enclose a work by Gherardi Davis giving illustrations of regimental colors since 1796. The colors now in use are well illustrated by the standard of the 3rd Cavalry on the title page. The changes made in this design are as follows:

(a) The coat-of-arms of the regiment is to replace the coat-of-arms of the U. S., that is the shield will replace the American shield and the crest (if any) will replace the glory of stars. The eagle will thus become the supporter for the regimental arms, thereby showing the federal character of the organization.

(b) Streamers will be attached to the staff, just below the spear head, bearing the names of the battles in which the regiment participated, each streamer being in the colors of the campaign ribbon for that war.

(c) When a regiment is cited in War Department orders for exceptional services in any engagement, the name of the engagement will be embroidered on the color itself.

3. The details which now have to be decided and concerning which your assistance will be appreciated are:

(a) The shape of the color. Our present colors have been criticized as being too long, Davis mentions this in his book (page x) recommending that they be more nearly square. I agree with that taking the regimental color alone, but this color is accompanied by a national flag, and this according to our opinion, must conform to the standard proportions, and we think that this compels the same in the regimental color; the artistic effect of different proportions would be poor.

(b) The size and shape of the streamers. We are inclined to the opinion that these should be about four inches wide and equal in length to the hoist of the color, the end being swallow-tailed. The names to be embroidered thereon in a contrasting color, e.g. on the Philippine streamer which is red and blue, yellow would be the best; on the Spanish one (yellow and blue) use red, etc.

(c) The scroll carrying the name of the organization. Various types of scrolls will be found in Davis' book, the present one is shown on the 3rd Cavalry standard, or better in the lower illustration opposite page 72. Davis criticizes this scroll and I agree with him. I think it is inartistic and unbalanced. Opposite page 11 will be found two scrolls in use during the War of 1812, I like the lower one. Another 1812 scroll is opposite page 16. This is also good. Opposite page 22 is another type, and this with modifications was used for many years, it is also very like the scroll shown opposite page 3 used in 1796. Opposite page 32 is the development of this scroll as used during the Mexican and Civil Wars. This is the one I personally like the best of all. There are several other illustrations of it on succeeding plates. (pp. 40, 42, 56, and 78). Opposite page 44 is one used after the Civil War, and other types of the same period are shown in the lower illustration opposite page 56, page 58, upper illustration page 72. I do not like any of these as well as the Mexican War scrolls.

4. My own idea is that it would be desirable to combine history and tradition with art in this manner; the first seven regiments of infantry antedate the War of 1812, these regiments to use the best 1812 scroll; the remaining infantry regiments up to the 25th were organized between that time and 1866, they might use the Mexican War scroll. The 26th to 30th were organized in 1901, and above the 30th in 1916 and 1917. Can we get a good looking scroll for them of later date?

5. I should like very much to talk to some member of the Commission on the subject, and this letter is to prepare the way for such a conversation.

(signed) ROBERT E. WYLLIE,
Colonel, General Staff.

EXHIBIT A.

ALFRED COOKMAN CASS
Architect
Lansdowne, Pa.

July 15, 1900.

Charles Moore, Esq.,
Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts,
1729 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am mailing to you under separate cover, a drawing of the proposed memorial tablet for the Interstate Commerce Commission, following the instructions in your letter of March 29th, with the addition of two names sent to me by Mr. Holmead, in his letter of May 11th.

I am sending also a drawing showing the position of this tablet on the west wall of the vestibule of the Interstate Commerce Building, as suggested by Mr. Holmead. The actual size of the tablet, and the lettering, is marked on this drawing.

I find that the marble panel, to which this tablet is to be affixed, is of Vermont "Best Light Cloud," of a warm gray or "dove-color," polished, instead of white marble as stated in your letter.

I suggest that the tablet be made from Istrian marble, with a honed surface, the letters to be incised V cut, and possibly painted a brownish black, if desired.

This tablet can be made, and boxed F.O.B. Philadelphia for the sum of \$900. If the two lines of lettering at the bottom are omitted, \$65. may be deducted. I have thus far been unable to obtain from the contractors any satisfactory figures for setting the tablet in place, on account of the uncertainties as to the labor union regulations in Washington. If they will allow Philadelphia men to set it, estimates vary from \$40. to \$95., and it seems best to determine that matter later.

The tablet can be finished in about four weeks after receipt of the order if there should be no delay in securing the marble.

Hoping that the design may meet with the approval of yourself and Mr. Holmead, and that I may hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Alfred Cookman Cass.

500 South Lansdowne Avenue,
Lansdowne, Pa.

EXHIBIT B.

